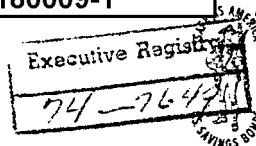




DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

WASHINGTON



SEP 27 1974

REFER TO

AIR-1-E:A CW

X-VES-1

Dear Mr. Colby:

The U.S. Customs Service is charged with responsibility for the enforcement of many United States statutes that control the introduction of goods into this country and with the regulation of foreign commerce. Among the most important responsibilities are the prevention of the smuggling of prohibited goods, the detection of those seeking to evade the payment of duty, and the enforcement of certain United States statutes relating to entrance and clearance of vessels and aircraft arriving in the United States from foreign countries.

Based on information that there is extensive violation of these smuggling and navigation statutes in United States Gulf Coast area, this Service will initiate an intensive enforcement effort during the months of November and December. This effort is designed to identify all marine and air traffic into the southeast part of the United States from foreign countries and to determine the extent to which violations are occurring. Geographically, the effort will extend from Mobile, Alabama, to Miami, Florida. The detection and inspection of aircraft and vessels will be accomplished by U.S. Customs Service personnel.

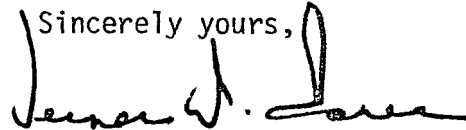
Since the violations of interest concern the entry of an aircraft or vessel from a foreign country, the identification of such aircraft or boats in a foreign port during the time of the effort would greatly facilitate this effort. The collection of this information cannot be accomplished by this Service, so assistance from United States agencies with foreign collection capabilities is being requested to identify aircraft and vessels calling at foreign ports during the period of this effort.

The assistance of your agency is requested in identifying all aircraft and small vessels, foreign to the port of call, in the Caribbean Islands, Central America and the northern portion of South America. More specifically, this Service needs information on the identification of the vessel or aircraft, to include description, if possible, its date of entry into the port or airport and, in the case of vessels, the date of departure and declared destination.

There is no security classification assigned this effort and there is no objection to the utilization of foreign law enforcement or regulatory agencies to gather the data. However, we would not want to disclose the nature of our operation to those sources.

Your assistance is vital to the full success of this effort and will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Commissioner of Customs

The Honorable
William E. Colby
Director, Central
Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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